

East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation

Youth Hockey Locker Room Policy

East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation (EGF P&R)

prioritizes the safety, well-being, and privacy of all participants. We follow the U.S. Center for SafeSport Program, including its Locker Room, Electronic Communication, and Travel Policies. This Locker Room Policy applies to all participants, coaches, volunteers, approved team personnel, and family members.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote a safe and respectful environment.
- Protect participants from bullying, threats, harassment, hazing, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
- Provide clear expectations for locker room conduct, supervision, and privacy – especially for co-ed teams and teams with coaches of the opposite gender.

Locker Room Facilities

EGF P&R primarily uses the three East Grand Forks ice arenas, each containing four locker rooms. Locker rooms may include private or shared restrooms and showers. Facilities may vary when teams travel, so when traveling out of town, parents should plan to have extra time for their child to dress, undress, and shower if desired. It is not the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Department to make locker room arrangements at other facilities.

Locker Room Monitoring

EGF P&R teams will be allowed predictable use of locker rooms, 30 minutes before and 20 minutes after practices, provided a monitor is present. For games, teams may be allowed use of the locker rooms for 75 minutes before and 20 minutes after games, provided a monitor is present. This allows for consistent monitoring while respecting players' privacy.

General Monitoring Requirements

- Locker rooms will be checked before players arrive.
- When coaches are not inside the locker room, locker room monitors or coaches will be positioned directly outside the door or within arm's reach of the entrance.
- Only participants, coaches, approved personnel, and family members (when permitted) may enter.
- Team personnel will ensure that locker rooms remain secure when teams are on the ice.
- Coaches may choose to keep doors partially open only when privacy is not compromised.



Locker Room Monitoring Responsibility & Enforcement

Each EGF P&R team shall designate a Locker Room Coordinator (LRC) for the team, which shall be either a coach or the team manager. The Locker Room Coordinator is responsible for maintaining and communicating the Locker Room Monitoring Schedule to the team. This should consist of a list of the individuals responsible for being the Locker Room Monitor (LRM) both before and after each team event, including all practices and games. If a scheduled individual is unable to fulfill their obligation, they should communicate via phone or text with the Team Manager within a reasonable timeframe to ensure a different, qualified individual is able to fill in.

EGF P&R recommends one of the following approaches to maintaining appropriate monitoring of locker rooms:

- Enforcement Option 1: The coaching staff may volunteer to serve as LRMs throughout the season.
 - In this case, the Head Coach should work with the Team Manager to ensure the team and coaching staff are aware of who is performing those duties.
 - Recommended approach: Assign one or more Assistant Coaches to perform this duty each week of the season.
- Enforcement Option 2: Appoint the Team Manager to be the Locker Room Coordinator (LRC) for the team.
 - In this case, the LRC will develop, use and communicate a rotating schedule of parents to serve as LRMs throughout the season.
 - If the LRM is not one of the team coaches, it is advised that the monitor remain in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room (near the door within arm's length so that the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room).
 - Recommended approach: Assign a qualified individual (mom/dad/guardian) to be the LRM each week, rotating through the team.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Parents are not allowed to enter locker rooms except to help dress players in younger age groups (defined as the Mite, Termite, & Girls 8U age groups only) or when the coach and/or locker room monitor invites them into the locker room because their child requires assistance.

- Parents should notify a coach and/or locker room monitor if they need to help their player.
- Players in the Squirt/Girls 10U & Older age groups should come out of the locker room if they need assistance getting dressed or undressed.
- Coaches may ask parents to leave before or after games so the team may meet privately.
- As players get older, coaches may prohibit parent access entirely at their discretion.

Procedures for Games and Practices

Pre-Game/Pre-Practice Procedures

- Players may enter the locker room at the designated times – 30 minutes prior to the start of practice and 75 minutes prior to the start of a game.
- Monitoring begins when players enter the locker room area. If a monitor is not present, locker room access will not be provided.

Mixed-Gender (Co-Ed) Teams

To respect the privacy rights of all participants:

- When possible, male and female players will dress in separate locker rooms and then convene together for team meetings.
- After practice or games, players may meet in one locker room before returning to gender-specific spaces to undress and shower.
- If only one locker room is available, players will take turns dressing privately.
- Players may need to arrive earlier or leave later to allow sufficient time for proper accommodation.

For Teams with Female Players or Female Coaches

- Female coaches or designated female monitors will oversee the locker room during dressing periods.
- If two female coaches are present, they may monitor from inside or within the immediate vicinity of the door.
- If only one female coach is present, she will monitor from immediately outside and frequently enter the room.
- **Coach Entry Verification**
 - At the 15-minute mark before game time, a female coach or monitor will enter the locker room to confirm all players are fully dressed in required equipment.
 - Once confirmed, the female coach will inform any male coaches that they may enter the locker room.
- **Between Periods & Post-Game**
 - Players return directly to the locker room, keeping their protective equipment and uniforms on. Helmets and gloves may be removed.
 - Female coaches/monitors will enter first to confirm the team is properly dressed before male coaches are permitted to address the team.
 - After speaking with the team, male coaches will exit the locker room or its immediate vicinity.
- **Practice Procedures**
 - The same monitoring and coach-entry procedures used before and after games apply to practices.
 - Players are responsible for being dressed on time so coaches may begin team activities promptly.

Cell Phones & Recording Devices

- Cell phones and any device capable of recording (audio, photo, or video) are prohibited inside locker rooms.
- Devices must be used outside the locker room.
- A responsible team manager or coach may collect phones before locker room entry and return them after the session.

Reporting & Prohibited Conduct

East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation strictly prohibit:

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Bullying, harassment, or threats
- Hazing
- Any misconduct described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook

Anyone who witnesses or suspects abuse or policy violations must report it. Reports of any actual or suspected violations should be handled as outlined in the Parks & Recreation Conduct & Discipline Policy.

Failure to Comply

Any participant, coach, team personnel member, or parent who fails to follow this policy may face consequences, including removal from the locker room area, suspension, or other disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation.